

Aboveground Storage Tank Vapor Recovery Rulemaking

Regulations controlling gasoline vapor emissions from gasoline marketing operations such as gasoline dispensing facilities (service stations) were initiated by the Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) in the 1970s. For gasoline dispensing facilities the controls are divided into two phases. Phase I regulates emissions from the gasoline transfer from cargo tanks to dispensing facility storage tanks, and Phase II regulates emissions from gasoline transfer from the dispensing facility to the motor vehicle.

Enhanced Vapor Recovery (EVR) regulations for dispensing facilities with underground storage tanks were approved by the Board in March 2000 and are currently being implemented. The purpose of EVR is to seek additional emission reductions by increasing the stringency of performance standards and specifications and to improve the performance and reliability of vapor recovery equipment.

The approved EVR regulations are not applicable to vapor recovery systems used on aboveground storage tanks (ASTs). To achieve similar benefits for ASTs, ARB staff has initiated a new EVR rulemaking package specific to vapor recovery systems for this category. ARB staff is proposing to apply many of the current EVR standards to AST systems.

District rules require the use of ARB certified vapor recovery systems for tanks that store and transfer gasoline. Equipment used in agricultural operations is typically exempted from a district's permitting process. However, district rules require that loading and vapor collection equipment be installed on ASTs that exceed certain capacity such as 550 gallons for the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District. In these cases, an ARB certified vapor recovery system is required to be installed.

ARB staff will conduct a workshop on April 24, 2003 to provide information on the proposed requirements, specifications, and standards for certifying vapor recovery systems for AST (see attached workshop announcement). If the regulations are adopted, the currently certified vapor recovery system will be terminated. Existing facilities will have up to four years from the effective date of the regulations to comply with the new requirements. New facilities and existing facilities undergoing major modifications will be subject to the new requirement within the effective date of the regulations. ARB staff encourages participation from the agricultural community.

More information regarding this rulemaking can be found on ARB's AST website at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/vapor/ast/ast.htm>. For questions please contact Joe Guerrero, Manager of the Engineering Evaluation Section at (916) 324-9487 or email jguerrer@arb.ca.gov or Pat Bennett at (916) 445-9308 or email pbennett@arb.ca.gov.